Aboriginal Economic Partnerships

Annual Results

2011/2012

Strengthening Aboriginal Participation in the Economy

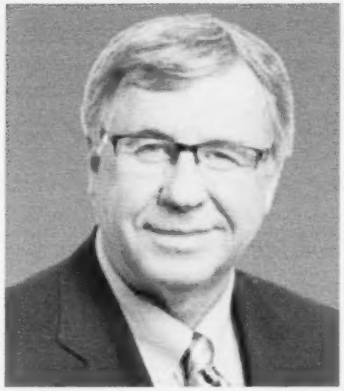
Alberta Government

Message from the Minister

I am pleased to present the Aboriginal Economic Partnerships Annual Results 2011/2012 report summarizing the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations' key initiatives supporting Aboriginal economic development in Alberta.

The 2011/2012 year saw an increase in the number of grants provided to Aboriginal communities as well as increased collaboration between ministries, industry, and Aboriginal businesses and organizations.

The ministry's collaborative, outcome-based approach continues to produce positive and sustainable results for Aboriginal people and communities, and it is another way the Government of Alberta is working to enhance the participation of Aboriginal people in the province's economy.



Honourable Robin Campbell
Minister, Aboriginal Relations

Aboriginal Economic Development

The Aboriginal Economic Partnerships branch of Aboriginal Relations supports economic development in Aboriginal communities by building capacity and strengthening relationships between Aboriginal communities, industry and governments.

The branch's two funding programs, available to First Nations, Metis communities, Tribal Councils, Aboriginal-owned businesses and organizations, and non-government organizations, continue to be the core of its operations:

Economic Capacity Building

The Economic Capacity Building (ECB) program helps Aboriginal communities to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to identify, plan and implement economic development projects.

With a focus on long-term sustainability, ECB initiatives build on existing resources in communities to enhance human capital, governance and management.

The ECB program supported 18 projects in 2011/2012.

Strategic Economic Initiatives

The Strategic Economic Initiatives (SEI) program supports strategic and sustainable economic partnerships between Aboriginal communities, organizations, industry and other stakeholders. SEI partnerships must:

- Have a regional focus;

- Address community priorities;
- Demonstrate significant value to communities; and
- Contribute to a better understanding of Aboriginal economic development.

The SEI program supported 16 projects during the 2011/2012 year.

Collaboration and Cooperation

Aboriginal Economic Partnerships continues to work closely with the Aboriginal Development branch of Alberta Human Services, supporting more than 100 initiatives throughout Alberta in 2011/2012, including:

- Funding Alberta's Aboriginal Capital Corporations, which provide support to Aboriginal entrepreneurs looking to start or expand a business;
- Helping Aboriginal communities and businesses identify economic opportunities and addressing their needs through feasibility studies, business plan development, and the sharing of best practices; and
- Funding employment and training programs for Aboriginal people.

Aboriginal Economic Partnerships also collaborates with the federal and municipal governments to increase economic and workforce opportunities for Aboriginal youth and women.

Aboriginal Economic Partnerships collaborates with the federal and municipal governments to increase economic and workforce opportunities for Aboriginal youth and women.

Recognizing Achievement

Aboriginal Economic Partnerships sponsors two annual awards recognizing the contributions of individuals and businesses in Alberta's Aboriginal communities to the province's economy.

- The Aboriginal Woman Entrepreneur Award of Distinction, presented at the Alberta Chambers of Commerce Business Awards.
- The Rewarding Partnerships Award, which was created with the Alberta Chamber of Resources to celebrate companies and their Aboriginal partners who have demonstrated excellence in innovation, best practices, sustainability, and capacity building. The award is presented during the Alberta Chamber of Resources' annual awards banquet.

Fiscal Year Funding

In 2011/2012, Aboriginal Relations and Alberta Human Services invested $4.9 million to support Aboriginal economic partnerships and enhance the participation of Aboriginal people and communities in Alberta's economy.

Funds were distributed through Aboriginal Economic Partnerships' grant programs and resulted in:

- 18 new Economic Capacity Building projects
- 16 new Strategic Economic Initiatives projects
- 67 Aboriginal workforce and training initiatives

Grant Breakdown

Economic Capacity Building (ECB)	Grant Amounts $
Alexander First Nation	20,000
Calgary Chamber of Commerce	50,000
Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers (CANDO)	82,000
Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers (CANDO)	20,700
Cold Lake First Nations	50,000
Ehda Cho Corporation	27,500
First Nations Housing and Public Works Advisory Group Inc.	50,000
Fort McMurray #468 First Nation Industry Relations Corporation	50,000
Kikino Metis Settlement	17,000
Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council	72,000
Metis Settlements General Council	32,500
Metis Settlements General Council	50,000
North Peace Tribal Council	30,000
Peerless Trout First Nation	40,000
River Cree Development Corporation	100,000
Saddle Lake Cree Nation	24,600
SevGen Consulting	80,000
Smith's Landing First Nation	15,000
Total	**$811,300**

Strategic Economic Initiatives (SEI)	Grant Amounts $
Alexis Land Management Corporation	100,000
Aseniwuche Winewak Nation of Canada	50,000
Blood Tribe	82,000
Duncan's First Nation	100,000
East Prairie Metis Settlement	36,000
Fishing Lake Hillside Confectionary Ltd.	8,000
Kihew Technologies Inc.	50,000
North Eastern Settlements Alliance Corporation	70,000
O'Chiese Energy GP	100,000
SevGen Consulting	100,000
Siksika Nation	21,000
Saddle Lake Cree Nation	32,000
Siksika Resource Developments Ltd.	62,000
Treaty 7 Management Corporation	50,000
Tribal Chiefs Ventures Inc.	50,000
Whitefish Lake First Nation	50,000
Total	**$961,000**

Supporting Entrepreneurship

In 2011/2012, Aboriginal Economic Partnerships, through the ECB program, provided $20,700 to the Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers (CANDO) for the delivery of the Maskwacis (Aboriginal) Youth Business Dream Catcher Program in Hobbema.

Through a series of workshops that incorporate and promote cultural and traditional practices, the program helps improve the economic, social and cultural prospects of the youth in all four Hobbema bands by providing opportunities to understand entrepreneurship and community economic development, and the relationship between them. The workshops also seek to increase financial literacy skills, and they are a chance for youth to network with Aboriginal entrepreneurs, representatives from Aboriginal financial institutions, credit counselors, and representatives from educational institutions.

An additional $82,000 in funding was provided to CANDO for the Future Aboriginal Business Leaders Symposium program.

The program is a collaborative effort that provides Aboriginal high school students with an opportunity to learn about entrepreneurship, mentoring, and goal setting. Its unique aspect is that it is delivered province-wide, with a focus on reaching Aboriginal youth in both urban and remote communities. In all, 200 students participated in the symposium, which was held in spring of 2012.

Promoting Partnerships

The SEI program provided $50,000 in funding to the Aseniwuche Winewak Nation to explore potential economic opportunities and provide recommendations to the community. Key outcomes of the project included:

- A feasibility study for new and existing businesses, including market research, budgeting and cash flow estimates, estimates on capital purchases, and a marketing plan;
- Successful partnerships with Encana, CononcoPhillips, and ATCO to provide access to staff development and business planning resources;
- A skills inventory database for tracking development activities and opportunities; and
- Education and training for community members.

Building Capacity

In 2011/2012, Aboriginal Economic Partnerships hosted economic capacity building workshops in Slave Lake, Grande Prairie and Cold Lake.

The goals of the workshops were to:

- Enhance collaboration between provincial and federal governments;
- Increase the accessibility of economic development resources for Aboriginal communities;
- Create new opportunities for sharing information on community issues and needs;
- Promote discussion on best practices; and
- Provide business planning support.

Participants also benefited from information sessions presented by:

- Alberta Aboriginal Relations
- Alberta Human Services
- Alberta Treasury Board and Finance
- Alberta Indian Investment Corporation
- Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
- The Business Link

Building Capacity

IGNITE Camps

In partnership with IBM Canada and Aboriginal communities, Aboriginal Economic Partnerships continues to help Aboriginal youth enhance their knowledge of technology and industry with IGNITE camps.

The goal of IGNITE (Igniting Interest in Technology and Engineering) is to introduce students to a variety of careers in science, information technology, and engineering, with a focus on increasing student engagement and academic success.

In 2011/2012, a total of $122,000 in funding was provided to the Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council and the Metis Settlements General Council to develop a sustainable, community-driven model for First Nations and Metis communities.

If your community or organization would like more information on IGNITE, contact Angela Ferguson, Manager, Aboriginal Economic Partnerships, at 780-427-5071 or angela.ferguson@gov.ab.ca

The goal of IGNITE is to introduce students to a variety of careers in science, information technology, and engineering, with a focus on increasing student engagement and academic success.

Recognizing Achievement

Contact Us

For more information on the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations' Aboriginal economic partnership initiatives, please contact:

Lanny Der
Director
Aboriginal Economic Partnerships
Aboriginal Relations
19th Floor Commerce Place
10155-102 Street NW
Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 4G8

Phone: 780-644-1057
Fax: 780-427-1760
Email: lanny.der@gov.ab.ca
To call toll-free from anywhere in Alberta, dial 310-0000.

www.aboriginal.alberta.ca

Aboriginal Woman Entrepreneur Award of Distinction

The recipient of the 2012 Aboriginal Woman Entrepreneur Award of Distinction was Isabell Ringenoldus, owner of TAWS Security Ltd. in Fort McMurray, who was recognized at the Alberta Chambers of Commerce Business Awards on March 2, 2012, for her commitment to enhancing community security and the self reliance of Aboriginal communities.

Rewarding Partnerships Award

The 2012 Rewarding Partnership Award was presented at the Alberta Chamber of Resources Awards on February 10, 2012, to Primco Dene Group of Companies.

Primco Dene, which provides a wide range of services in Northern Alberta, is wholly-owned by Cold Lake First Nations and has become a model for First Nations business development.

Alberta Government

MAY 2013
ISBN 978-0-7785-9921-0 WEB
ISSN 1925-3656 WEB